

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this Application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

After entry of the foregoing amendment, Claims 1-9 are pending in the present Application. Claims 5-9 have been amended to address cosmetic mattes of form. No new matter has been added.

By way of summary, the Official Action presents the following issues: Claims 5-9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph; Claims 1-9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Dworkin (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0071,540), in view of Dailey et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,363,352, hereinafter “Dailey”).

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 112, FIRST PARAGRAPH

The Official Action has rejected Claims 5-9 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as allegedly failing to comply with the written description requirement.

In response, Applicants have amended the claims to clarify that the contents of a group chat room (i.e. chat) conducted during the distribution of contents is stored in association with the reservation of the first terminal. For example, as shown at S143 in Figure 28 of the specification, a computer (3) which initiated a reservation, receives the contents of chat stored in a shared file. As such, one of ordinary skill in the art would recognize that the chat is stored by the server and is forwarded to the reservation computer based upon contact information provided at the time of the reservation.¹

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of Claims 5-9 under 35 U.S.C. § 112 be withdrawn.

¹ See also pages 9-10 and 50 of the Applicants’ specification.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

The Official Action has rejected Claims 1-9 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being anticipated by Dworkin in view of Dailey. The Official Action states that Dworkin discloses all of the Applicants' claim limitations with the exception of sending a content to a server for distribution. The Official Action cites Dailey as disclosing this more detailed aspect of the Applicants' advancements, and states that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the advancement was made to combine the cited references to arrive at the Applicants' claims. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Claim 1 recites, *inter alia*, an information processing apparatus, including:

... a generation unit configured to generate a group chat room corresponding to the reservation at a predetermined time prior to a distribution start time designated by the reservation; and

a providing unit configured to provide the group chat room to the first terminal and the plurality of second terminals coincident with the first service, the plurality of second terminals accessing the group chat room and first service in accordance with authentication data of the received distribution notice upon a first contact with the server.

Dworkin describes an application service provider environment for providing a distributed conferencing configuration. As shown in Fig. 1 of this reference, the configuration (99) includes a plurality of users (100A-100F) employing the Internet (104). Conferencing resources (112) include both hardware and software components, and, are hosted and managed by a conferencing application service provider (110).²

In operation, the users (100) may employ the services of the conferencing configuration to facilitate distribution of data and video conferencing without the expense and overhead associated with owning and maintaining their own conference resources. For example, an individual user (100A) would register with the application service provider (ASP) and be provided with an application program interface (API) to receive the necessary

² Dworkin at paragraph 14.

software for support facilitating communication with the provider. Likewise, the user may user third-party instant messaging software to communicate with other users. In addition, the ASP may employ a messaging utility (122), such that upon registration, a user may download an instant messaging plug-in for use with a user interface (100B). In this way, the user can initiate a conference by manually inviting other instant messaging participants registered with the ASP.³

Conversely, in an exemplary embodiment of Applicants' invention, a live distribution service for streaming contents to users is provided in accordance with a reservation made in advance by a first terminal. In operation, a personal computer (3), provides contents for distribution according to a reservation to a streaming server (5). Second terminals (4-1 - 4-3) receive the streaming contents from the streaming server according to the reservation made by the personal computer (3).⁴ Coincident with the delivery of the streaming content, a group chat room is created corresponding to the reservation of the streaming distribution. In this way, the group chat room is automatically generated to be coincident with the delivery of the streaming content (i.e., first service). For example, distribution notices are provided to second terminals in accordance with a reservation, so that terminals included in the reservation can receive information for accessing the streaming content and chat room upon a first contact with the server.

As Dworkin describes only supporting third-party instant messaging services and providing an instant messaging plug-in to users. The user of third-party messaging utilities would not create a single group chat room. Separate conversations would be conducted between attendees having dissimilar chat utilities. As such, there is no way to create a group chat room coincident with the reservation as recited in amended Claim 1.

³ Dworkin at paragraphs 16-17.

⁴ Application at page 8.

In response to the Applicants' previous assertion consistent with the above distinctions, the Official Action noted that:

... it is noted that the features upon which applicant relies (i.e., "the chat room is automatically generated to be coincident with the delivery of the streaming content") are not recited in the rejected claim(s).

In this regard, Applicants respectfully direct the Examiner's attention to Claims 1, lines 16-17 which recite ... a providing unit configured to provide a group chat room to the first terminal and a plurality of second terminals coincident with the first service...⁵

Additionally, although the Official Action has cited several paragraphs of the Dworkin reference which describe the use of the instant messaging utilities, the Official Action is devoid of any analysis which identifies the generation of a group chat room corresponding to a reservation.

Moreover, with respect to Claims 7-9, the Official Action notes that:

Per Dworkin, recording/playback and live broadcasting services are provided (0027).

While in the system of Dworkin it may be possible for a user to log back in to a server to playback a previously provided conference, it is unclear how this feature is analogous to recording chat conducted in a chat room so that the content of the chat may be forwarded by the server to the terminal which provided the contents for distribution to the server.

Nowhere does Dworkin describe the provision of chat room contents to a computer terminal which originally provided the contents for distribution as recited in the Applicants' claims.

As Dailey does not remedy any of deficiencies discussed above, Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 1-9 patentably define over the cited art, and, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of Claims 1-9 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 be withdrawn.

⁵ Applicants note that the preamble of Claim 1 defines the first service as a distribution of contents distributed in real time.

CONCLUSION

Consequently, in view of the foregoing amendment and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the present Application, including Claims 1-9, is patentably distinguished over the prior art, in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested at an early date.

Respectfully submitted,

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